

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, January 22. 1712.

I Have frequently taunting Letters sent me, by such, who I am satisfy'd watch for my Halting, and not only shew that they would willingly lay a Snare for me, but believe they have thereby done it; urging me to speak to the present Circumstances of the Times, as it Respects the displacing the D— of Marl — gb. The Letters I keep by me against a proper Occasion; and as they know well enough that I am not afraid to speak my Mind freely, so I shall answer their Expectation from me that Way, not fearing at all the Bad answering the Wicked part of the Design on me the other Way.

And first to speak in general, I say this, if there is no Occasion for Displacing the Duke, I am sorry it is done, for the Nation's sake; and if there is an Occasion for it, I am doubly sorry for it, for his sake.

As to those who tremble at the Event of it, as if the Nation must fall, because the Duke is not at the Head of our Affairs; That the Army must be beaten, or not succeed, because he does not Command, and the like; I have more hope in God's Goodness, and more Faith in the Protection promis'd to his Church, than to be of that Number; since I fear not yet, but French Power shall fall, and the Fetters of Europe
shall

shall be knoe'd off still, and even by this Confederacy too, notwithstanding the Infidelity by which we provoke Heaven to desert us; and if this be done by a Peace, no General will be wanting, and if by a War, a proper General will be rais'd up by him that makes Men, and can make any Man a General, when his Work is to be done.

As to those who rejoyce at the Removing him upon Party Account, that are Personally piqu'd at him, and that desire his Fall, not only from his Command, but into all the Mischiefs of the Unfortunate, I abhor the Principle, and can by no means join with the Men.

The Merit of the Duke of Marl—gb is acknowledg'd by every Hand; and tho' I was never for making Man an Idol, and which I believe he does neither expect or desire of any Man; yet, as I was forward in his Praise, which I thought just, and I am sure far from Flattery, having never made my Court to him for a Reward, I shall be the last Man to detract from that Merit, till I find himself deface it by some Action so foul, as to over-balance the Justice due to what he has done.

For this Reason I cannot but condemn the Method some take, of charging him in Print, to justify, as they may think, the Publick in Removing him; I cannot think the Government stands in need of, or desires such a Step to be taken in their Justification; my Reason is, because such a Step is highly Unjust and Dishonourable, and it would be a severe Satyr on the Government to say, they should desire so ill an Action to appear, to justify what really needs no Justification at all; in this also I must explain myself, for I know what Age I speak in, and how readily Men put their own Interpretation upon other Men's Words.

Actions require Justification in two Points; in Justice, and in Policy. No Man can charge the Queen with Injustice, in Dismissing any Officer of State or War, because they are all Employ'd *durante bene placito*, and not *quandiu bene gesserint*;

so that it is not an Illegal Action, that part needs no Dispute.

As to the Policy of it, I shall say a hard Word, and who it may displease I know not; I am no Judge of the Policy or Prudence of the Thing, nor can we judge of it without Doors; but I am perswaded the greatest Guilt which has displac'd the Duke of Marl—gb, is the Error in Policy, and Prudence among his Friends; and for this, I'll give you two famous Instances in History, tho' I could give you many; I wish those who this may touch, had add'd, or would yet add with more Temper and Policy, even for the Duke's Sake; for they cannot think, that Bullying the Queen in every Coffee-House with the History of the Duke's Merit, was any Argument to the Government to keep him in, or will be any to restore him; I could speak this plainer, but I forbear, with Respect to the People I am speaking of; whether they will be sensible that it is any Service to them, I neither know, or concern myself about it.

Henry IV. of France had a Noble Man in his Service, Eminent for his Glorious Merit, long, faithful Service, both in the Field and in the Council; he had most sincerely adber'd to his Interest in the greatest Distresses of that Prince; he never sought a Battle without him, or gain'd a Victory, but he ow'd some part of it to him, and at last, he was the Instrument, that in a manner let him into Paris, and fix'd him on the Throne, nor was the King backward to acknowledge it upon all Occasions; this was the *Marschal de Biron*.

Believe me, Gentlemen, when I am Entitling the *M. de Biron* to some equivalent Merit to the D. of Marl—gb, I am far from Entitling his Grace to any of Monsieur *de Biron's faux pas*, which brought on his Ruin; but I give you this particular, it was the Warmth, the Heat, and indeed the Rage, with which the People of one Party in France, Resented the King's Treatment of that great Man, which they call'd Barbarous and Ungrateful, which made his Fall necessary; and the King who always lov'd him

him, hearing of some Extravagancies of the Protestants, (the Whigs of that Time) was heard to say, *The Hugonots will force me to part with my Cousin de Biron, whether I will or no.* I make no Application, it is plain enough, nor let any Man civil at the point, when they think to tell me what Monsieur de Biron did afterward to precipitate his own Ruin, and which forc'd the King to take away a Life, which had a Thousand Times been expos'd to save his own; even those Men who pitied the Man, yet could not blame the King—— They that upbraid Princes with the Merit of their Subjects, make Way for that Jealousie, which oftentimes ends in the Disadvantage of the Person they would seem to applaud.

History gives us two Examples more, of this very Thing in England; Sir Thomas Cromwell, in the Days of King Henry VIII. and the Earl of Essex, in the Days of Queen Elizabeth.

The Crime of Sir Tho. Cromwell really, for I am not now upon the Imaginary pretended Crimes, which were the Cry of the Times, was his true Design to introduce the Reformation; that King had his private Ends in giving Encouragement to the Reformed, and humbling the Pope, of which History is full; but he dreaded equally a Compleat Reformation; and when Cromwell was Represented, as having Designs to introduce it, the King grew uneasy with him; but it was the Popular Addressing of the Protestants to him, as their Patron and Refuge, this ruin'd him effectually with the King, and issu'd even without any Fault in him, in his Destruction.

The Story of the Earl of Essex in Queen Elizabeth's Time, is eminent to the same purpose, only with this difference, that the Earl was so puffed up with the Applause of the People, and the Opinion of his own Merit, as drove him to break out in a mad and unsufferable Attempt upon the Queen's Peace—— And really the Duke's Safety now must be owing to his own Loyalty, Tem-

per, Modesty, and Moderation, for the Madness of the People would run any Length now, as it did then.

I am far from joining with Suggestions of some, who will have the Duke be the Head of a Faction; his Grace knows his Duty and his Interest too well, to leave Room for that; but laying that aside, nothing is so natural as to say, when People cry up any Man so high, as to tell their Sovereign she cannot act without them, at once works Mischief to the Person himself, by making it necessary to the Government to convince them of the Mistake. I could wish all the true Friends to his Grace, to act the same Moderation and Temper which he is himself so much Master of; and which adds the brightest part to his Glory, and verily believe, that if they had done so from the beginning, they had better serv'd his Interest and their own.

Yet having thus spoken freely to that which I think hurtful to his Grace's Interest, I cannot conclude, without adding, that I condemn with the utmost Abhorrence, the raising Popular Clamour against his Honour, against the Justice and Fidelity of his Conduct, on presumptive Evidences, Suggestions and Report, or even upon any Account whatever, as a Thing not only Barbarous and Inhumane, but Illegal and Scandalous. If there is any Matter of Charge, the proper Place for a Charge is near; the Door of Justice is open; the Parliament is sitting; what is Suggested, is in a Way of Legal Examination; what can farther be objected may at any Time be heard; to Censure him before-hand, is to hang first, and try afterward; and to condemn by Popular Clamour, is to *De-wis* the Reputation of a Man, which is the worst sort of Murder.

Nor can this be grateful to the Queen or the Government; no Man can have such a Thought without Abhorrence; to think, that the Government can desire him to be Treated thus, is to suggest immediately the Duke Innocent in the highest Degree in the World, and would be the greatest Scurry imaginable upon the Government, as
dearing

desiring to blast that unblemish'd Character they could not stain.

If there is Guilt, let the Law alone, it strikes slow, but sure; yet the Law supposes every Man a good Man, till Legally Accused and Convicted to the contrary — As to its being Ungenerous, Ungentlemanly and Unchristian, to condemn unheard, and pass Sentence before the Party Answers for himself, I might say something to them; but the Fury of our Times is

such, that really neither Side can say much for themselves, as to good Manners or Gentlemanly Usage, so I omit that.

I thought fit thus far to answer the Malicious Enquirer, as above, by giving my Opinion in the Case now before us.

————— *Si vera videtur,
Dede Mann, si falsa est Accingere contra.
Lucret.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

QUACKERY Unmask'd; in 3 Parts, containing, 1. Reflections on the 7th Edition of Mr. Martin's Treatise of the Venereal Disease. 2. An Examination of the Charitable Surgeon, The Generous Surgeon, The Tomb of Venus, and a pretended new Method of curing this Disease. 3. A brief Enquiry into the Ancient and present State of the Practices of Physick and Surgery; a full Account of Quacks; then (in a concise Method) is shewn the Cause, Nature, Signs, and Dangerous Effects of this Disease, various ways of Receiving, Symp-

tomies first Discovering, and only Method of preventing its Infection; together with the best, most cheap, safe, speedy, easie and private Methods of Cure. As also the Cause and Cure of Old Glands in Men, and Weaknesses in Women. The Second Edition Enlarg'd. Sold by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan, at the Golden-Ball in Cornhill, and B. Barker, in Westminster-Hall, and by the Author, Dr. Spinke, at his House at the Golden-Ball, 3 Doors directly past the Sun-Tavern, in Milk-street Market, Cheap-side. Price 2 s.

Printed for, and sold by John Baker at the Black-Boy in
Pater-Noster-Row. 1712.